AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings.

1.-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method for triggering a load element using an electronic switching element ~~(S1)~~ in a load circuit, the method comprising:

controlling a voltage ~~(Ua)~~ on the load element with a maximum specified increase; ~~and~~

recording, during a switching procedure, an effectively occurring power loss or a related value ~~(Ua/Ubat)~~, wherein the effective increase ~~(I1+I2+I3)~~ is controlled dependently on the recorded power loss; and

wherein the triggering is achieved such that during the phase (t4-t5) of high power loss, the voltage is adapted with the maximum specified increase, and the increase at the beginning and the end of the switching procedure is lower than the maximum increase.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein during the switching procedure, an effective ratio between the voltage on the load element and the supply voltage ~~(Ua/Ubat)~~ is recorded, assigned increase values are specified at least for specific value ranges of the ratio ~~(Ua/Ubat)~~, and the increase is adapted accordingly during the switching procedure.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the electronic switch element is a transistor switch ~~(S1)~~ with an active phase, and first and second threshold values are specified in such a manner that the first and second threshold values approximately localise the active phase, and the transistor switch is controlled within this active phase with the second, higher increase.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the electronic switch element is a transistor switch with an active phase, and that first and second threshold values are specified in such a manner that a specified maximum power loss for each switching procedure, and a specific maximum electromagnetic interfering radiation level cannot be exceeded.

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein a voltage ~~(Ua)~~ on the load element in relation to a supply voltage ~~(Ubat)~~ is recorded as a proportional value, and corresponding voltage values are specified as first and second threshold value, from which point on the load element is controlled according to the specified maximum increases.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 24, wherein the first threshold value is between 5% and 30% of the supply voltage ~~(Ubat)~~, and the second threshold value is between 70% and 95%.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein the first threshold value is approx. 15% and the second threshold value is approx. 85%.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein between the first and second phase, at least one intermediate phase is provided, in which the voltage is raised by an increase value which lies between the maximum increase in the first phase and the maximum increase in the second phase.

28. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 27, wherein the switching procedure is completed in three main phases and two intermediate phases, whereby:

in a first main phase ~~(t1-t2)~~ the output voltage is controlled up to a first specified threshold value ~~(e.g. approx. 10%)~~ with a first increase ~~(I1)~~;

in a second intermediate phase ~~(t2-t3)~~, the output voltage is controlled up to a second specified threshold value ~~(e.g. approx. 20%)~~ with a second increase ~~(I1+I2)~~;

in a second main phase ~~(t3-t4)~~, the output voltage is controlled up to a third specified threshold value ~~(e.g. approx. 80%)~~ with a third increase ~~(I1+I2+I3)~~;

in a second intermediate phase ~~(t4-t5)~~, the output voltage is controlled up to a second specified threshold value ~~(e.g. approx. 90%)~~ with the second increase ~~(I1+I2)~~; and

in the a main phase ~~(t5-t6)~~, the output voltage is controlled up to the supply voltage with the first increase ~~(I1)~~, wherein the third increase ~~(I1+I2+I3)~~ is larger than the second increase ~~(I1+I2)~~, and that is in turn larger than the first increase ~~(I1)~~.

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the voltage on the control input (Ug) of the switching device is ~~also~~ monitored ~~(COND 1)~~, and wherein an effective current increase ~~in a first and third phase, a~~ current value ~~(I1+I2+I3) is fed in which~~ is above the first current value ~~(I1)~~ for as long as a voltage ~~the current~~ on the control input is either lower ~~(t0-t1)~~

than a specified threshold voltage ~~(VT)~~ or higher ~~(t6-t7)~~ than the difference between the supply voltage ~~(Ubat)~~ and the threshold voltage ~~(VT)~~.

30. (Currently Amended) A switching arrangement for triggering a load element, the arrangement comprising:

an electronic switching element ~~(S1)~~ in a load circuit, wherein the input of the electronic switching element is current controlled;

a control unit connected to an input of the switching element; ~~and~~

a load element connected to a load output of the switching element, wherein the control unit records a switching condition of the switch element, and in dependence on a triggering signal and the switching condition, controls the switch element in such a manner that a voltage on the load output is controlled in three phases with a restricted increase, wherein an increase in the second, middle phase is lower in value than an increase in the other phases; and

wherein, depending on a triggering signal and a switching condition on the control input in the first phase, a first current value, in the second phase, a second, higher current value, and in the third phase, a third current value is fed in, and the third current value is lower than the second current value.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 31, wherein at least two current source circuits ~~(I1, I2, I3)~~ are provided on the switch input, which in turn are controlled depending on the switching condition of the switch element in the load circuit.

33. (Previously Presented) An arrangement according to claim 30, wherein a smoothing element, such as an RC low pass, is connected to the input of the switching device, and the smoothing element rounds the edges when switching over between the current values.

34. (Currently Amended) An arrangement according to claim 30, wherein the voltage on the input ~~(Ug)~~ of the switching device is monitored ~~(COND 1)~~ and wherein an effective current increase~~in the first and third phases, a~~ current value is above the first current value ~~is fed in~~ as long as the voltage on the control input is either lower ~~(t0 t1)~~ than a specified threshold voltage ~~(VT)~~, or higher ~~(t6 t7)~~ than the difference between the supply voltage ~~(Ubat)~~ and the threshold voltage ~~(VT)~~.

35. (Previously Presented) An arrangement according to claim 30, wherein the arrangement is provided in a motor vehicle for modulated triggering of an essentially ohmic load element.

36. (Previously Presented) An arrangement according to claim 30, wherein the arrangement is provided in a motor vehicle for pulse-width modulated triggering of lamps in continuous lighting mode within a frequency range above 100 Hertz.

37. (New) An arrangement according to claim 28, wherein the first specified threshold value is approximately 10%.

38. (New) An arrangement according to claim 28, wherein the third specified threshold value is approximately 80%.

39. (New) An arrangement according to claim 28, wherein the second specified threshold value is approximately 90%.